

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 OMB-01 SSC-01 AID-05 IO-13 XMB-02 EB-08
/098 W

-----060738 191849Z /72

R 181453Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9950
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 2283

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GT
SUBJ: PRO-LUCAS COALITION WILL HAVE MAJORITY IN CONGRESS

1. ALMOST 6 WEEKS AFTER MARCH 5 BALLOTING, THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL APRIL 14 DECLARED OFFICIAL RESULTS OF THE POPULAR VOTE FOR THE 61-SEAT CONGRESS SCHEDULED TO TAKE OFFICE JUNE 15. THE COLAITION SUPPORTING PRESIDENT-ELECT GENERAL ROMEO LUCAS WON A 4-SEAT MAJORITY.

2. THE LONG-AWAITED OFFICIAL TALLY GAVE THE CENTER PID/PR/CAO COALITION 34 SEATS (17-14-3); THE RIGHTIST MLN 20 SEATS; AND LEFT-OF-CENTER DCG (CHRISTION DEMOCRATS) ONLY 7 SEATS, OF WHICH 4 BEONG TO GROUPS ALLIED WITH BUT NO PART OF THE DCG.

3. THE RESULTS REFLECT UNOFFICIAL REPORTS WHICH HAD BEEN DRIFTING OUT OF THE ELECTORAL REGISTRY (KNOWN TO MANY NOW AS THE "ENCHANTED HOUSE" IN THE LIGHT OF THE SKEPTICISM
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WHICH HAS GREETED ANNOUNCED RESULTS) AND HAVE CASUED LITTLE SUPRISE. SOME CHALLENGES ARE EXPECTED. MOST POLITICIANS WE HAVE TALKED TO CONCEDE THAT THE RESULTS OWED AS MUCH TO WHEELING AND DEALING AS TO A CONSCIENTIOUS TALLY. MOREOVER, MANY OF THE VOTING DOCUMENTS APPRENTLY REACHED THE COUNCIL IN DISARRAY. FROM ALL APPERANCES AT LEAST SOME OF THE RELATIVELY HEAVY MLN REPRESENTATION CAME AT THE EXPENSE

OF THE DCG. THE PRO-LUCAS MAJORITY, ALTHOUGH SEEMINGLY
AMPLE, FALLS SHORT OF THE TWO-THIRDS NEEDED FOR SOME
KINDS OF LEGISLATION, E.G., APPROVAL OF INTERNATIONAL LOANS
AND THE BUDGET.

4. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ARE THE BIG LOSERS. THE WORD
IS THAT THEY ASKED TOO MUCH IN RETURN FOR "PROTECTING"
THE 15 SEATS TO WHICH AN HONEST TALLY, THEY SAY IN
PRIVATE, WOULD HAVE ENTITLED THEM. IT WILL BE INTERESTING
TO SEE HOW DCG MAKES OUT IN THE 40-ODD MAYORAL RACES
STILL TO BE DETERMINED.
BOSTER

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NNN

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